

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, July 11, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Carl Brewer
Gerald Domitrovic
Treatha Brown-Foster
Lois Tully-Gerber
Lori Lawrence
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Debby Moore
Sharon Myers
Shontina Pickens-Tipton*
Michael Ross*
Inga Taylor*
James Thompson
LaVonta Williams

Members Absent

Steve Roberts

Guests

Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman
Beverly Domitrovic, Schweiter NA
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston
Norma Smith, 2427 Menlo
Paula Givens, 1228 N. Matthewson
Willella Becker, 2303 Menlo
Glen Dey, 4515 Greenbriar
Oletha Goudeau, 4158 Regents
Dan R. Rouser, 1107 N. Pinecrest
Keith Hukle, 2633 Sennet

***Alternates**

City of Wichita Staff Present

Viradena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Chief Norman Williams, WPD
Officer Mo Floyd, WPD
Officer Rusty Leeds, WPD
Officer Pierce, WPD
Roger Smith, Environmental Services
Dennis Graves, Environmental Services
Wade Pascal, Water & Sewer
Scott Wadle, MAPD
Christy Askew, MAPD
Dave Barber, MAPD

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed the guests and Police Chief Norman Williams. Brewer thanked Chief Williams and his staff for their on-going support. He then asked that those who wished to address the board would please state their name and address and keep their remarks limited to five minutes. No one came forward.

Approval of Minutes

Brewer (Brown Foster) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 9-0.

Approval of Agenda

Brewer (Moore) made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled Item

No item submitted.

2. Off-agenda items

No item submitted.

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Mo Floyd, 23 Beat, reported the following: a) Officer Floyd, Beat 23, attended the South Central Improvement Alliance meeting and they will host a National Night Out on August 2nd, Lincoln Park, 1300 South Broadway. It is the largest neighborhood event with an expectation of 2000 attendees; b) a complaint was worked concerning the upcoming skateboard park. The business south of the skateboard park is concerned about potential affects to the customers and the employees; c) last Wednesday, two-thirds of the addresses of sex offenders was verified on Beat 23; d) OCI forwarded a report on vacant houses on the beat; e) there is a senior citizens program that identifies needs of elderly residents. A 91 year old resident had her house painted and maintenance and home repairs as well; f) Officer Rose, 22 Beat, is investigating the theft of 21 air conditioning units from a business on Indiana. Crime Stoppers is involved in this investigation; g) in the 911 process, if you do not wish to be contacted, the call is placed as a “broad call” and officers are not dispatched. In order for updates to be provided to citizens, those calling should identify to dispatch that they only wish to be contacted by phone.

Officer Courtney Pierce, 43 Beat, reported the following: a) there is an increase in gang activity, which is being handled by the 2nd Special Community Action Team; b) a prostitution and John sting occurred on Beat 31; c) 45 Beat has an increase in robberies around Wichita State University and the target is foreigners. To address this issue, a safety meeting was held to create an awareness in order not to become a victim; d) Hope Street Youth Development has no budget and is looking for young people and adult volunteers.

(Responses are in italics)

Myers asked who is responsible for gang graffiti cleanup? She stated that she reported graffiti along the walking path that is owned by the homeowner’s association to her Community Police Officer in February 2005 and the graffiti is still there. Myers added that Officer Parker took pictures of the graffiti and notified the Gang Unit to identify if the graffiti was actually gang related and it was identified as gang tagging. *Sgt. Leeds responded that the homeowner’s association has the right to take care of this themselves. Chief Williams added that the police must have a written waiver authorizing removal of graffiti that is located on private property. The City ordinance prohibits staff from entering private property without consent.*

Chief Williams addressed the board with the following information on 2005 stats: 1) crime rates are down 9.5% in the areas of homicide, robberies, auto thefts, etc. Out of the 7 categories, Wichita is down in 5 of those areas. Ag assaults are up due to gang resurgence, auto thefts are up 2%, and prostitution arrests are up 202%, which are just under 90 arrests compared to 30 on last year. Williams reported that there is a slight resurgence of gangs. This is being addressed via a gang plan that is implemented with the assistance of a community coalition. Currently 72 guns are off the streets, 221 gang members have been arrested, and the focus approach is “Not in Our House”. Suppression

efforts are as follows: the DA's office has two attorneys to work only on gang related incidents and Municipal Court is working on misdemeanor crimes committed by gang members. Also, the community coalition is working on pro-active prevention measures with incentives such as education, employment, mentoring, tutoring, etc.

Chief Williams then reported that a new recruit class has started with 14 new recruits. Joint classes are being held with the Sheriff's Department. A budget has been submitted to the City Council and the City Manager with the objective that we will obtain support for our needs. He then thanked the board for their support of WPD and the community as a whole. He encouraged them to get to know the officers in their areas. Lastly, he stated that Wichita has a "can do attitude" concerning Quality of Life issues and he hopes that this attitude gains momentum.

(Chief Williams' response in italics)

Brown Foster asked what happens to the School Resource Officers when school is not in session and how much of their salaries do USD 259 pay for and are these salaries paid all year? *When school is not in session, the officers work the streets in their respective bureaus. In August, they will be reassigned to their schools. There are 15 officers in the middle schools and 7 officers in the high schools. The Board of Education pays \$250,000 towards five of the 10 officers. This amount is to be increased in 2006. It cost a total of \$1.4 million dollars for 22 officers. Prior to 2004, the City paid 100% of the officer's salaries. The BOE tapped into their reserves to put 10 officers back in the schools, because the community asked for these officers to remain. We pay the salaries all year.* **Williams** asked if we have motorcycle officers? *No, we do not. Sedgwick County and the Highway Patrol have a few.*

Lawrence asked where the WPD budget is located? *It is in the larger budget.* **Brewer** thanked Chief Williams for coming out to address the board. He also stated that the officers are doing an outstanding job.

Brewer (Moore) made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 9-0.

4. Dog Ordinance

Dennis Graves, Environmental Health, reported that Animal Services and the Wichita Animal Shelter currently employs 22 staff members that work 7:00 a.m. – midnight seven days a week. Animal shelter services are 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Animal Services receives approximately 32,000 annual service requests, between 9,000 – 15,000 stray, injured, sick, biting and abandoned animals each year, and adopts and release approximately 3,000 animals to the public. He added that they are in partnership with the Kansas Humane Society to build a shelter. The idea is to provide a one-stop shop for all animal concerns and needs. The future concerns are that they have only 12 field staff with an increasing workload. It is best to contact staff via telephone at 268-8378. Phones are answered between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. After 5:00 p.m., calls are answered by an answering machine until midnight. The machine is checked every hour for messages. After midnight, call 911 for emergencies until 8:00 a.m.

(Mr. Graves's response is in italics)

Williams asked what is the chance that personnel will increase? *2007 is the slated time for staff to increase.* **Brown Foster** commented that the Animal Shelter charges about as much as it would cost to purchase a new dog. *Everything you pay for goes to the dog for shots, licensing, etc. and the Animal Shelter only gets \$10.00. The state requires that we charge a fee for spade and neutering. We only charge \$48 to \$68 for adoption. I believe you are referring to the fees that the Humane Society charges.* **Moore** stated that she has new people in her neighborhood with a puppy that runs loose, which is dangerous for the children who run after it. **Miller Stevens** asked if the priority list

calls are made directly to the department? *Yes. We work with WPD on pit bull calls; dog fighting, etc. 911 calls on stray dogs are transferred to us as well.* **Domitrovic** asked what affect has the tethering law had on your staff this past year? *Personally, I appreciate the ordinance as people are interacting with their animals more. The ordinance was established to not allow animals to run loose. We have been recognized nationally for the ordinance and our stance to protect the rights of animals.* **Williams** inquired about the possibility of getting leash laws passed for cats. *On July 20th, there will be a meeting with area veterinarians and the Humane Society to discuss our approach towards cats. Under the current ordinance, cats have a right to roam.* **Tully-Gerber** asked if there is a “three strikes and you are out” law for violators? She also asked about concerns that a neighborhood association is having with an inadequate fence and a dog. *There are escalating consequences. If the violator receives a fourth citation, it is followed by a mandatory court appearance. The judge has the option to issue a \$500 fine or jail time. Please note that we cannot cite someone because a dog might jump the fence. We can only leave a notice of improvement. If the fence is dilapidated, call me directly and I will do a perimeter check on the fence.* **Thompson** stated that his neighborhood has a problem with multiplying cats and inquired if the cats could be trapped and brought to the animal shelter? *You can trap the cats and we will accept them. You will have to sign an abandoned cat form. If you are feeding the animals, it is harboring and you are considered the owner.*

Norma Smith, 2427 Menlo, reported that she has called the office for two years concerning a highly aggressive large dog with inadequate fencing. She stated she had to build a fence for protection. *I can assure you that our department has responded if you have called for two years. Perhaps we have not been able to resolve your issue to your satisfaction, but give me your address and I will come out. I have been in your area and you do have a lot of loose dogs in that neighborhood.*

Brewer asked staff to go out to Schweiter and assist them with their dog issues. He then recognized City Manager Kolb and his wife, Sandy.

The board received and filed.

5. Water and Sewer Rate Increase

Wade Pascal, Water & Sewer, presented the 2006 proposed budget recommendation for a six percent increase in water rates and a seven percent increase in sewer rates via a PowerPoint presentation.

The board was concerned with the following: 1) how the increase percentage was established; 2) if the increase was driven by the Capital Improvement Program initiative; 3) if the additional funding would pay of the old debt; 4) if this increase would be used to replace old lead pipes; 5) if residential rates are the same across the City for established and newly developed neighborhoods; 6) flawed formula in the tiered pricing for water usage; 7) the cost developers are charged; and 8) what is the most expensive cost incurred by the Water Department for operations.

(Mr. Pascal's response is in italics)

The percentage increase is calculated using the Debt Service Coverage Ratio. The financial requirements of the Bond Covenants dictate the ratio and the unrestricted cash coverage. If approved, the old debts would be paid off with the increased revenue.

As far as the old pipes replacement, I cannot answer that at this time. There are certain criteria we use for scheduling and targeting areas and I would need to get with the Engineers in order to

respond. When dealing with the rates issue, the rates are the same across the city for established and new services. On irrigation related issues, yes you are being penalized by design. Water usage doubles in the summertime – supply, distribution, pumping, etc. It is designed so that the more water you use the more you pay. Those who don't irrigate, it is the cheapest water you can find. The base cost is low, because all of the cost is loaded into peaking rates. The developers' pays 100% and at large capital pays for major mains. Users are charged special assessments as well.

The cost of operations depends on how many new areas are being served. For growth, 35% is paid through CIP; 23% system rehabilitation, etc.

6. Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) Fee Increases

Chris Carrier, Public Works, presented the proposed ERU fee increases via a PowerPoint presentation. He explained the following: The Storm Water Utility Comprehensive Drainage Plan was started in 1992 to solve drainage issues. There is \$280 million dollars in unfunded needs in Wichita, which takes care of maintenance, operations, construction, etc. Equivalent Residential Unit fees and General Obligation bonds pay for these areas. Non-residential properties are charged one ERU for every 2,139 square feet of impermeable surface. The current ERU rate is \$1.50 per month. These fees are projected to grow 1% per year as the City grows. The expenditures currently exceed the revenue. The increased ERU fee and the sale of revenue bonds would allow Storm Water to meet the demands.

The proposed Storm Water CIP includes 19 projects that require the ERU increase in order to pay Debt Services for support. The ERU is proposed to increase by two 25 cents increments in 2006 and 2007. The west side has a project projected at \$8 million. There needs to be an aggressive program to address drainage needs. Staff is recommending approval of \$22 million dollars in new CIP drainage projects and the ERU increase.

The board was concerned with the following: 1) if major drainage issues would be resolved with the ERU increases; 2) how Public Work prioritize projects; and 3) the problems with standing water and mosquitoes in many neighborhoods.

(Mr. Carrier's response is in italics)

The areas of Central/Oliver and 9th and Woodlawn, etc. are projects included in the storm water needs. We prioritize with residential flooding first, then business and nuisance flooding. In the Pinecrest area, there is an underground spring that is not a storm water related issue. However, it will take storm drainage to resolve the flooding.

Council Member Brewer thanked staff for their presentation and asked the board if there were additional questions. No one had additional comments or questions.

Brewer (Tully-Gerber) made a motion to adjourn to a 10-minute break. Motion carried 9-0.

The board reconvened at 9:39 p.m. and **Moore** called the meeting to order.

7. Central Northeast Area Plan

Scott Wadle, MAPD, presented the proposed development for the Central Northeast Area Plan. He introduced Dave Barber and Christy Askew.

Wadle explained that the original plan for the Central Northeast Area was developed in 1995 with 90 recommendations to improve the area. The current plan was developed with a 22-member steering

committee, 11 neighborhood associations, two CDC's, Sunflower CAG, and area non-profit organizations. There were 11 community meetings that addressed the needs.

He stated that on page 18 of the plan is the list of 11 priority needs. Out of those needs, 43 detailed implementation strategies were developed. The unique focus of this plan is that its adoption does not require a commitment of funds in order to succeed. Staff is asking that the board support and approve the Central Northeast Area Plan.

The board was concerned with the following: 1) with no request for funding, are we inadvertently setting ourselves up for failure; 2) who will champion this plan; 3) what relationship does the committee have with Wichita Independent Neighborhoods (WIN); and 4) will there be a Phase 2 to secure funding.

(Mr. Wadle's response is in italics)

The neighborhood associations will have challenges obtaining funding for sidewalk repairs, improvements, etc., but this document gives them the process to follow. The Council of Neighborhood Associations will become the advocates so that all associations lend one voice to resolve issues. From this effort, an Ombudsman position could be created. As far as WIN, the associations are under WIN. However, this plan only addresses one area and not the entire city. Keep in mind that this is not a plan like McAdams where there is funding allocated for certain projects. The City Council members would be the ones to decide on funding allocations.

He then apologized to Mr. James Thompson for not including the Elm Neighborhood Association on their list of credits.

Board members thanked staff for all of their hard work on this document and commended them for an excellent job. This is a workable document that neighborhoods could use to improve their quality of life.

Brown Foster (Williams) made a motion that the District Advisory Board recommend support and approve of the Central Northeast Area Plan Update, dated July 2005. Motion carried 9-0.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted.

New Business

No items submitted.

Board Agenda

8. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- 1) **Moore** commented the Debra Miller Stevens was prepared to make a motion the board discusses new items under New Business, but she will do this at the next meeting.
- 2) **Moore** suggested that the board seating be rearranged in more of an L-shape in order for the members to see each other.
- 3) **Moore** announced the CSBG meeting on Monday, July 18th @ 3:30 p.m., Career Development Center.
- 4) **Brown Foster** announced that Northeast Millair NA Cleanup would take place Saturday, July 19th, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.
- 5) **Lawrence** announced that the Uptown NA had a wonderful picnic and thanked Council Member Brewer for the great food.

- 6) **Williams** announced that Ken Mar NA had a great neighborhood cleanup and thanked Officer Judi Jones for 30 community service workers.
- 7) **Brewer** welcomed the new board members: Shontina Pickens-Tipton, business owner; Inga Taylor, business owner; and Michael Ross, our youth member.
- 8) **Brewer** announced the groundbreaking for McAdams Revitalization and Drums Across Kansas @ WSU on Monday, July 18th.
- 9) **Brewer** reported that the coalition breakfast went well and Deputy Chief Stolz addressed most of the meeting by responding to questions regarding more involvement from the Community Police Officers and how officers respond to citizen complaints.

He announced that the next DAB 1 Meeting would be held on Monday, July 25, 2005. Brewer commented that this is a high informational time of the year, thus the extra meeting. He instructed the board to come prepared to discuss and ask questions about the budget.

Lastly, the District I Coalition Breakfast Meeting will be August 6, 2005, Cisro's Restaurant.

The board received and filed.

With no further business, **Brown Foster (Moore)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant